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CO 520 Narrative Pastoral Counseling

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Asbury Theological Seminary

**A Syllabus and General Guide for
Narrative Pastoral Counseling
CO520
Summer 2001**

**Burrell D. Dinkins, Th.D.
Johnson Chair of Pastoral Leadership**

I. Course Description:

This course is designed as an examination of the theory and practice of a postmodern approach to counseling from the perspective of narrative. The process of authoring and reauthoring lives through stories will be examined from the disciplines of literature, psychology, Bible, theology, psychotherapy and spiritual direction.

II. General Goals: The goals of CO520 are to help students:

1. Develop a basic understanding of the issues of postmodern theory and techniques of counseling.
2. Integrate narrative theory with the practice of narrative counseling.
3. Bridge the gap between exegesis and diegesis in Bible studies.
4. Examine the importance of asking timely, well-formulated questions.
5. Explore how their own lives have been authored and discover ways to reauthor themselves from the perspective of the biblical metanarratives.
6. Discover the potential of a solution orientation to human concerns,
7. Discover ways to become practitioners of Narrative Counseling,

III. Prerequisite For the Course:

Before enrolling in this class students must have successfully completed PM 608 (Pastoral Care and Counseling or PM 654 (The Helping Relationship).

IV. Time: The class will meet Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) - Friday, June 1. 8:00-12:00; 1:30-4:30.

V. A. Course Reading: A minimum of 1500 pages of reading in textbooks and research projects will be required.

B. Research Projects: Students will select a topic related to narrative studies for research and write a 12-15 page academic paper.

C. Practice Sessions: Students will be asked to practice narrative counseling skills in class sessions.

D. Final Exam. An open book take home exam will be used to evaluate academic knowledge and clinical skills.

Evaluation System:

The following percentages will determine the numerical and the letter grade.

30% Research project

20% Team role-play and class discussion

20% Reading report

30% Final Exam

VII. Texts:

Coles, The Call of Stories

Monk, Winslade, Crocket and Epston: Narrative Therapy in Practice: The Archeology of Hope, Jossey Bass.

Powell, Mark Allan. What Is Narrative Criticism?

Polkinghorne, Donald E. Narrative Knowing and the Human Sciences

Ruffing, Janet. Uncovering Stories of Faith, Spiritual Direction and Narrative.

(Note: This book is out of print. The publisher has given permission to make copies for this class. They can be purchased in the bookstore.)

White, Michael and David Epston. Narrative Means To Therapeutic Ends,

VIII. Bibliography:

(In the process of development)

**Narrative Pastoral Counseling
CO520**

Class Schedule

Date	Hour	Class Topic
Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day)	8:00-9:15	Introduction to N. P. C.
	9:15-9:25	Break
	9:25-10:40	Telling Our Stories
	10:40-10:45	Break
	12:00-1:30	Read: The Call of Stories
		Lunch
	1:30-2:45	Narrative Concepts
	2:45-3:00	Break
	3:00-4:30	Story Listening Skills
Tuesday, May 29	8:00-9:15	Counseling Conversations
	9:15-9:25	Break
	9:25-10:40	Asking Questions
	10:40-10:45	Break
	10:45-12:00	Developing An Attitude of Hope
	12:00-1:30	Lunch
	1:30-2:45	Discovering Competencies, Building on Strengths
	2:45-3:00	Break
	3:00-4:30	Story Development Skills
Wednesday, May 30	8:00-9:15	Discover and Expand the Plot
	9:15-9:25	Break
	9:25-10:40	Past-present, Present-present, Future-present Time
	10:40-10:45	Break
	10:45-12:00	Cinephotography stories
	12:00-1:30	Lunch
	1:30-2:45	Narrative Conversation Demonstration
	2:45-3:00	Break
	3:00-4:30	Vision Stories
Thursday, May 31	8:00-9:15	Bible Stories
	9:15-9:25	Break
	9:25-10:40	Narrative Theology
	10:40-10:45	Break

Thursday, May 31 (cont.)	10:45-12:00	The Healing Power of Stories
	12:00-1:30	Lunch
	1:30-2:45	Crisis Stories
	2:45-3:00	Break
	3:00-4:30	Creating Stories
Friday, June 1	8:00-9:15	Writing Narrative Letters
	9:15-9:25	Break
	9:25-10:40	Narrative Leadership
	10:40-10:45	Break
	10:45-12:00	The limitations of narrative approaches to counseling summary
	12:00-1:30	Lunch
	1:30-2:45	Exam
	2:45-3:00	Break
	3:00-4:30	Exam